

Engrossed Senate Bill 5279
Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC)
Enacted March 31, 2003
Bill Summary

TPEAC is extended to March 31, 2006. The TPEAC's annual report is to detail its performance and progress in implementing its work plan. Goals for specific outcomes are established and detailed work plans and dates are set forth as follows:

One stop permitting for projects of statewide significance: By June 30, 2003, the TPEAC is to develop a detailed work plan including a process enabling WSDOT to propose permit terms and conditions for permitting agency review and approval. A status report is required by December 31, 2003, identifying barriers and opportunities for concurrent public review processes and hearings and a unified appeals process.

Programmatic agreements: A goal is set for 70 percent of WSDOT construction projects or activities to be addressed with programmatic agreements. By June 30, 2003, TPEAC must develop a detailed work plan for achieving programmatic agreements and prioritize a list of DOT activities eligible for programmatic permits. By June 30, 2004, TPEAC must complete the nine highest priority programmatic agreements and by December 31, 2005 complete a full list of other prioritized programmatic agreements. The TPEAC is also to identify opportunities to integrate local government requirements in those agreements.

Pilot projects: TPEAC is to conduct one or more projects to implement the collaborative review process set forth in the Growth Management Act that coordinates state and local permits for transportation projects that crosses more than one city or county boundary.

Watershed based mitigation: TPEAC is to develop a detailed work plan by June 30, 2003 including activities and resources needed to complete a mitigation policy by December 31, 2003; develop decision making tools by June 30, 2004; test technical and policy methods by December 31, 2004; and integrate policies and procedures for broader application to projects by June 30, 2005.

Delegation of federal permit authority: WSDOT, Ecology and WDFW are to examine opportunities for delegation of federal permitting authority to the state and then report their findings to TPEAC by September 30, 2003. The report is to address federal initiatives, maximizing programmatic approaches, responsibilities of respective agencies, and a work plan and schedule of activities for those reporting agencies. TPEAC is to act on that report and report every six months beginning December 31, 2003, on the status of delegation efforts.

Local government permits: The TPEAC is to identify permits for which uniform standards can be developed for local governments. It is to identify strategies for local governments to adapt these standards and best practices for those permits. A progress report is required by December 31, 2003, with final recommendations due by December 31, 2004.

Budget: \$3.4 million is included newly adopted transportation budget with \$300 thousand targeted for funding participation by local governments in programmatic permits and standardized local ordinances. The budget also has a proviso that requires 10 pilot project be identified where WSDOT will draft permit terms and conditions.